

# Outlook

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FACULTY AND STAFF WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Volume 19 • Number 12 • April 22, 2003



Watch a  
Soap,  
Cast a  
Vote

Page 4

## Maryland Center for Anxiety Disorders Wins \$1.5 Million Grant

**S**ocial anxiety disorder is the subject of a new \$1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to the Maryland Center for Anxiety Disorders.

Samuel Turner and Deborah Beidel, co-directors of the center and co-investigators of the study, explain the difference between social anxiety disorder and social phobia. "Social anxiety disorder is pervasive, it affects every part of a person's life," says Turner. "A social phobia is usually a single thing, like snakes or heights."

Social anxiety disorder usually begins during the teen years. Turner explains that people with this disorder develop coping mechanisms that allow them to succeed in some degree in life.

"But they lead very restricted lives and the stress takes a huge emotional toll," he says. Many develop depression or addiction to drugs or alcohol. The disorder affects between 5 and 8 percent of the population.

There are two goals of the four-year study: to develop a set of norms that define social behavior, and to test the two forms of treatment now used for the disorder to determine which is more effective. Both of the existing treatments for social anxiety disorder have proven effective. About 70 percent of people treated show marked improvement and of those, 85 percent remain well after 10 years.

The first form of treatment involves exposing people with the disorder to situations they have avoided. The second form of treatment involves exposure coupled with social skills training. Beidel explains their theory:

"If people develop this disorder relatively early in life and as a result start isolating themselves, they may never have had the types of interactions that help all of us develop what are considered to be normal social skills. Therefore, social skills training may improve treatment outcomes."

Two hundred people without social anxiety disorder will be studied to develop the norms of social behavior; this group will be paid \$50 for about one and a half hours of their time. The randomized controlled treatment part of the study will involve 180 people with the disorder between the ages of 18-60. Free treatment will be administered twice a week for 16 weeks; one will be one-on-one and one will be in a group setting.

Anyone interested in participating in the study should call the Maryland Center for Anxiety Disorders at (301) 405-0232.

## Channeling Rain for Environmental Gain



Neil Weinstein, designer of the two on-campus rain gardens, President Dan Mote and Allen Davis, civil and environmental engineering professor, confer during the dedication ceremony for the gardens.

**O**vercast skies seemed an appropriate backdrop for dedicating rain gardens on campus recently. President Dan Mote and Alfonso Cornish, deputy chief administrative officer for the Prince George's County government, official-

ly dedicated the two rain gardens on Friday, April 11. The ceremony took place on the first day of a national campus greening conference.

Rain gardens, also known as bioretention facilities, are areas of land that reduce the quantity and improve the

quality of polluted runoff water from parking lots. The gardens use soil to absorb the water and plants to filter out some of the pollutants.

The conference was hosted by the university and the

See **RAIN GARDEN**, page 3

## Grant Will Make Library User Friendly

**A** newly announced federal grant for the Library of American Broadcasting (LAB) will benefit researchers, scholars and students eager to study some 18 collections related to women in broadcasting. The National Endowment for the Humanities announced March 24 that the LAB would receive nearly \$99,000 to process and do basic preservation on the collections.

"Much of this material is not currently in a researcher-friendly state," says LAB Curator Chuck Howell. "Our task now is to rehouse, organize and create Web research aids for this valuable resource."

The collections include correspondence, manuscripts, photographs and scrapbooks that focus on women in broadcasting from the 1920s to the 1980s.

According to Howell, these collections carry a tremendous amount of information, not only about women in broadcasting,

See **LIBRARY**, page 2

## Hanging up His Blue Hat Deputy Chief to Retire

**W**hen University Police Col. Mike McNair arrived on campus as an undergraduate in the late '60s with a trunk and broken dreams of joining the Air Force, he never imagined trading in his turtleneck and blazer for a campus police uniform and a career that would span 32 years.

The Baltimore native channeled his energy into campus activism for a while, instead of academics. McNair, one of only 300 black students on campus, joined anti-war protests, the Black Student Association and other causes for black students on campus.

When McNair joined the admissions office as a recruiter, he began to feel differently about changing the administration. "I learned that protest wasn't really the way to go," he said. "Instead you have to get to people in positions of authority. It wasn't effective to call people names."

After two years of school, McNair joined campus police in 1971, helping recruit more minorities to the force, which he remembers as a "hostile" work environment. "I had one or two officers tell me they didn't want me there," he said. "There was only one other black officer out of 75, and one female officer and a few meter maids."

Despite those challenges, McNair raced up the police ranks, while earning a bachelor's degree in law enforcement. McNair, who



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MITCHEL

After leading the Department of Public Safety's technological renovation, Col. Mike McNair will retire from the police force, effective April 30.

oversees the police department's Web site ([www.umpd.umd.edu](http://www.umpd.umd.edu)) and has a master's

See **McNAIR**, page 4

## Comedy Club Offers Laughs, Learning

**I**t's become a national phenomenon. The Col. E. Brook Lee Middle School Comedy Club in Silver Spring is a runaway success. Heading into its eighth year, the 35-member comedy club ensemble, under the direction of playwright Harry Bagdasian, has become known throughout North America. Seven of its previous presentations—scripted by Bagdasian, co-founder Lisa Levin Ittè and Lee students—have been used by schools and theater companies across the United States and Canada.

Larry Mintz, the director of the Gliner Humor Center at the university thinks the concept of an after-school comedy club is a great way for kids to dig deep into themselves. "Its unique ability to let young teens express themselves about issues important to them—bullying, dating, teachers, parents—is what makes this special," he says.

Mintz assigned two graduate students to follow the comedy club this year. When it's all over, they will write a report that is

See **COMEDY**, page 2



# dateline maryland

YOUR GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY EVENTS : APRIL 22 - 28

TUESDAY

## april 22

**4 p.m., Physics Colloquium** Physics Lecture Hall. With Wick Haxton, University of Washington. Refreshments are served beforehand for a small fee. For more information, call 5-3401.

**4-6 p.m., Universities at Shady Grove Open House** 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. Admission and transfer counselors will be available for those interested in upper-level, undergraduate or graduate programs. Eight USM schools offer daytime, evening and weekend classes at Shady Grove. Refreshments will be served. For directions, visit [www.shadygrove.umd.edu/directions](http://www.shadygrove.umd.edu/directions).

WEDNESDAY

## april 23

**Noon, First Generation and Low Income Students and the Academy: The McNair Experience** 0114 Counseling Center, Shoemaker Building. With Nthakoana Peko, associate director of the Reginald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. For more information, e-mail Vivian Boyd at [vb14@umail.umd.edu](mailto:vb14@umail.umd.edu).

**Noon-4 p.m., Fifth Annual Undergraduate Research Day** McKeldin Library. For more information, call 4-6786 or visit [www.ugresearch.umd.edu/URD.htm](http://www.ugresearch.umd.edu/URD.htm).

**6 p.m., Lecture: African Culture** Nyumburu Multipurpose Room. Molefi Asante of Temple University, a prominent scholar in African Diaspora studies, will speak on the influence of African culture in the initial design of Washington, D.C., and the current District environment. For more information, contact Toby Jenkins, 4-8439 or [tjenkins@deans.umd.edu](mailto:tjenkins@deans.umd.edu), or Clayton Walton, 4-1485 or [cwalton@deans.umd.edu](mailto:cwalton@deans.umd.edu).

THURSDAY

## april 24

**9:30-11 a.m., Laboratory Safety Orientation Training** 3104 Chesapeake Building. The Department of Environmental Safety (DES) offers this training to assure regulatory compliance. For more information or

to reserve a seat, contact Jeanette Cartron at 5-2131 or [jcartron@accmail.umd.edu](mailto:jcartron@accmail.umd.edu).

**Noon-1:30 p.m., Crossing Boundaries: Learning to Teach Multiculturalism** Maryland Room, Marie Mount Hall. This Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) workshop and conversation on teaching and learning is designed for TAs, but all are welcome to attend. For more information, contact the CTE at 4-1283 or [cte@umail.umd.edu](mailto:cte@umail.umd.edu), or visit <http://cte.umd.edu>.

**2-4 p.m., Award Ceremony** Maryland Room, Marie Mount Hall. The President's Commission on Women's Issues will recognize the winners of its Outstanding Women of Color Award. Honorees are Irene Zoppi and Charlene Chase. For more information, contact Mary Cothran at 5-5617 or Laura Nichols at 5-6827.

**3:30 p.m., Voices of Loyalty: The Calligraphic Response to the Mongol Conquest in Early Yuan China** 1213 Art-Sociology. A reception will follow the presentation. Part of the fourth annual Wang Fangyu Lecture in Chinese Calligraphy Education, featuring Peter Sturman of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

**4 p.m., Television, Truth and History** 0200 Skinner. Can television ever do justice to history? TV writer and broadcaster Simon Schama will speak on this and other problems that arise when the big picture hits the small screen. For more information, contact Anna Salajegheh at 5-8140 or [annasala@wam.umd.edu](mailto:annasala@wam.umd.edu).

**7-11 p.m., African Cultural Night** Stamp Union, Grand Ballroom. Dance, food, entertainment and more. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for all others. For more information, e-mail [sassya17@hotmail.com](mailto:sassya17@hotmail.com).

FRIDAY

## april 25

**Noon, Biogeochemical and Hydrologic Controls on Subsurface Arsenic Transport** 1201 Physics. With Madeline Schreiber of Virginia Tech. Coffee and tea will be served at 11:30 a.m. in the Geology Building. For more informa-

tion, contact Karen Prestegaard at [kpresto@geol.umd.edu](mailto:kpresto@geol.umd.edu).

**Noon, The Evolutionary History of Flies in the Fossil and Molecular Record** 1130 Plant Sciences. With Brian Wiegmann, North Carolina State University. For more information, see [www.entomology.umd.edu](http://www.entomology.umd.edu).

SUNDAY

## april 27

**3 p.m., University Chorale and Chamber Singers** Dekelboum Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Featuring compositions by Handel and Brahms. Free. For more information, contact Amy Harbison at 5-8169 or [harbison@wam.umd.edu](mailto:harbison@wam.umd.edu).

**8 p.m., Annual Saxophone Day** Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. A free program of faculty, student and guest performers. For more information, contact Amy Harbison at 5-8169 or [harbison@wam.umd.edu](mailto:harbison@wam.umd.edu).

MONDAY

## april 28

**3:30-5 p.m., Ambassadorial Lecture Series** Grand Ballroom, Stamp Union. Israeli Ambassador Daniel Ayalon will speak on "Searching for Peace in a New Strategic Environment," with an introduction by President Dan Mote. A brief reception will follow. For more information, contact Sapienza Barone at 5-5790 or [sbarone@deans.umd.edu](mailto:sbarone@deans.umd.edu).

**4 p.m., Beyond the Closet: Lesbians and Gays Today** 2154 Tawes. With Steven Seidman, University of Albany, author and editor of more than a dozen books. For more information, call 5-LGBT or e-mail [lgbs@umail.umd.edu](mailto:lgbs@umail.umd.edu), or visit [www.lgbs.umd.edu.x](http://www.lgbs.umd.edu.x)

**8 p.m., Around the World with Maryland Brass** Dekelboum Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Free. For more information, contact Amy Harbison, 5-8169 or [harbison@wam.umd.edu](mailto:harbison@wam.umd.edu).

For additional event listings, visit [www.collegepublisher.com/outlook](http://www.collegepublisher.com/outlook).

## Library

Continued from page 1

but also how that industry viewed women as an audience. He says, "The kinds of jobs into which they were guided, the programs on which they were allowed to work and the difficulties they overcame in order to succeed are all evident in these collections. They speak volumes about the relative status of women in the industry prior to, during and after the birth of feminism in this country."

The collections include oral histories from the 1970s and 80s, the correspondence of Helen Sioussat, director of talks for CBS from 1937 to 1958; the scrapbooks of Edythe Meserand, founder and first president of American Women in Radio and Television (AWRT), who worked in the broadcasting industry for more than 50 years; and more than 3,500 radio and television scripts written by Mona Kent, creator of the well-known radio soap opera "Portia Faces Life."

Altogether, the collections include some 1,500 photographs, 284 audio items in various formats and 19 videotapes.

Howell says that preserving broadcast history is a challenge because so little thought is given to the historical nature of the work being done. As he wrote in his NEH grant application, "New content is required constantly. There is little time to dwell on yesterday's broadcast (let alone the work of last month or year), as there is always another show to prepare."

Howell added, "No thought is given to historical significance, to what the scholars of the future might be able to glean from these programs and the records of their creation. The programs these women helped create are for the most part already gone forever. Should the documentation of that work be allowed to follow? These stories deserve to be told."

For more information about the Library of American Broadcasting, visit [www.lib.umd.edu/LAB/](http://www.lib.umd.edu/LAB/).

## Clarification

In the article "Conference Addresses Balancing Act of Professional Women," in the April 15 issue of Outlook, it should have been made clear that the Professional Concepts Exchange Conference is open to all non-exempt staff on campus, men and women.

## Comedy

Continued from page 1

expected to suggest ways the concept can be expanded to other middle schools in the Washington, D.C., area. One of those Maryland students, Ben Fisler, says a key ingredient will be to find a seasoned playwright like Lee's Harry Bagdasian to provide the necessary direction at each school.

But for now, the focus is on the upcoming production at Lee Middle School. Bagdasian says this year's comedy club program "CSI: Comic Sketch Investigations" includes more student-written material than ever. There are sketches that make fun of just about everything including adventure games and parents who insist you eat your vegetables.

"We spoof the TV show 'CSI: Crime Scene Investigations' and the newest cartoon craze—Yu-Gi-Oh," says Bagdasian. Other comedy targets: game shows, news programs and a popular take-off of the "Crocodile Hunter" program called "Adolescent Hunter."

The 90-minute program will be presented on April 25 and April 26 starting at 7:30 p.m. at Col. E. Brook Lee Middle School in Silver Spring. The address is 11800 Monticello Avenue. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children and will be available at the door.

## Outlook

Outlook is the weekly faculty-staff newspaper serving the University of Maryland campus community.

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## calendar guide

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314 or 405. Calendar information for Outlook is compiled from a combination of Inform's master calendar and submissions to the Outlook office. Submissions are due two weeks prior to the date of publication. To reach the calendar editor, call 405-7615 or send e-mail to [outlook@accmail.umd.edu](mailto:outlook@accmail.umd.edu).





## Notable

**Richard Schwartz**, mathematics, received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship to study the connections between real and complex hyperbolic discrete groups. The annual United States and Canadian winners include 184 artists, scholars and scientists selected from more than 3,200 applicants for awards totaling \$6,750,000.

**Pedro Barbosa**, Department of Entomology, has been selected as one of the country's most powerful Hispanic executives in technology and business by *Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology* magazine. The five-year-old list "demonstrates the new direction of America in embracing diversity and creating a more inclusive work force."

The **College of Agriculture and Natural Resources** honored some of its faculty and staff during its annual Awards of Excellence. The honorees are as follows:

Off-Campus Staff Award: **Nicole Bataille**, Extension program assistant, Somerset County. Bataille is involved in all aspects of the Somerset County 4-H program, working to develop and sustain 4-H clubs, serving as a co-camp director, providing nutrition education enrichment programs, and volunteering on local committees. She has helped increase participation of minority and at-risk youth in 4-H and ran the county's Extension youth development programs when the 4-H educator was on maternity leave.

On-Campus Staff Award: **Liesl Koch**, coordinator, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Koch provides an array of essential administrative and editorial duties for the department, including preparation of grant proposals and journal manuscripts and maintenance of the Web site for the Center for Agricultural and Natural Resource Policy. She also conducts special assignments, such as collecting data for faculty research, preparing camera-ready copy for books and bound reports, and organizing conferences for the general public as well as specific

professional groups.

Junior Faculty Award: **Lori Lynch**, associate professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Since she was hired in 1996 to work in the area of environmental and resource policy with regard to land-use issues, Lynch has compiled an impressive research, teaching and extension record. She has defined key issues, used novel and cutting-edge research methodologies to address them, and disseminated her research findings through a variety of channels and audiences. The innovative character of her work is achieving national and international visibility and is causing her to emerge as a key player nationally.

Dean Gordon M. Cairns Award for Distinguished Creative Work: **Ian Mather**, professor, Department of Animal and Avian Sciences. Mather has distinguished himself both as a scientist and teacher. For 28 years he has focused on the molecular mechanisms underlying the secretion of milk fat from the mammary gland. His work—and resulting publications—have had a considerable impact in advancing knowledge in this area and led to invitations to give national and international seminars. On campus, he was named an affiliate professor of the Department of Cell Biology and Molecular genetics, and established the core cell biology course for the Molecular and Cell Biology program.

Director's Award for Extension Excellence: **Susan Morris**, Extension educator, Montgomery County. Morris is a family and consumer sciences educator in Montgomery County. She organizes and implements educational programs in areas of personal financial management and human development for a diverse clientele that includes military personnel, senior citizens and federal and state government employees and family members. Collaborating with colleagues, she developed the Prescription for Financial Wellness Program, which has been used in more than 500 classes to reach about 12,000 people.

# Stages

NEWS FROM THE CLARICE SMITH

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## Bands Offer Opportunities For Students, Community

Having devoted the last 38 years to the university, Director of Bands John Wakefield has provided the School of Music with a rare continuity in leadership and vision, and has created a program that reaches out to the campus and beyond. The UM Bands offer opportunities for music majors, non-majors, alumni, faculty, staff and community members alike.

"I'm most proud of the kind of program we've built here and the way it serves the students and the community," Wakefield said.

Thrilled with the recent growth of the music program, Wakefield notes that this year the school received more than 1,000 applications, approximately triple the number submitted in previous years. He credits the school's tremendous faculty and new facilities in the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center for the heightened interest. "I don't think there's another university in the country with a facility like ours. It really has turned out wonderfully."

Wakefield will conduct the Symphonic Wind Ensemble in the 27th Annual UM Bands "Pops" Concert held on May 10 at 8 p.m. in Dekelboum Concert Hall. The program's first half will be performed by the University Concert Band directed by Associate Director of Bands L. Richmond Sparks, and will include light band classics and a piece featuring clarinetist and master's candidate Marguerite Baker. The second half will feature the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, paying homage to Tchaikovsky with transcriptions of "Marche Slave," the finale from his "Symphony No. 4," and a rousing rendition of the popular "1812 Overture," replete with cannons. For ticket information, call (301) 405-ARTS.



John Wakefield

## Political Intrigue in Mozart's "La Clemenza di Tito"

ousting political leaders, conducting senate hearings, granting pardons...

Although the action in Mozart's final opera "La Clemenza di Tito" is set in 79 A.D., it remains relevant to modern times.

The School of Music's Maryland Opera Studio production will be directed by artist-in-residence and theatre director/choreographer/video and installation artist Ping Chong and will be conducted by Heinz Fricke, music director of the Washington Opera. Performances will be Wednesday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 2 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ina and Jack Kay Theatre of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

Commissioned for the Prague coronation of Emperor Leopold II, the opera was intended to glorify and impress the new ruler by comparing him to another much-beloved ruler, Titus. In this work set right after the eruption of Vesuvius at Pompeii, Vitellia, daughter of the deposed emperor, schemes to have the current ruler Titus murdered because her love for him is unrequited. Titus discovers the plot, ultimately pardons his enemies, and is praised for his forgiveness and generosity.

In directing the opera, Chong will not depart from Mozart's original concept. "It was written as a piece of spin to promote the virtues of monarchical rule. At the same time, I will give the audience the opportunity to reflect upon contemporary society and the use of the media by our own rulers." For ticket information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

## Rain Garden: Education, Research, Protection

Continued from page 1

National Wildlife Federation. Rep. Steny Hoyer and Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson planted two trees in the gardens during a second ceremony the following Monday. Mote, Cornish and professors Allen Davis, civil and environmental engineering, and Patrick Kangas, biological resources engineering, each spoke at the Friday event. After the speeches, Mote and Cornish turned the valve of a water tank, allowing water to flow through the gardens as a demonstration.

"It's a great pleasure for the campus to be in a leadership position on a project such as this," Mote said. The university is the first in the country to build rain gardens on its campus.

Building the rain gardens was a collaborative effort between the university and the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources, a

worldwide authority on rain gardens. The gardens were designed by Neil Weinstein of the Low Impact Development Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to water and natural resource protection issues. There are plans to build more gardens in the same area, which is adjacent to a parking lot near the Comcast Center. Davis, director of the Maryland Water Resources Research Center, led the university's effort to bring the gardens to campus.

"Our rain gardens have a little more concrete and plastic than usual," he explained during the ceremony. The gardens were built in a way that makes water flow easy to track. They will be used for education and research, in addition to filtering runoff water from the adjacent parking lot.

Kangas, coordinator for the Natural Resources Management Laboratory, and J. Scott Angle, pro-

fessor of agronomy and associate dean for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, are also involved in the project. Graduate and undergraduate students will have the opportunity to work with the rain gardens in some of their classes.

Parking lots, among the main causes of runoff on campus, prevent water from soaking into the ground and add pollutants from car brakes and exhaust. Common lot pollutants include oil, solid particles from soil and cars, and metals such as zinc and copper.

Pollution from the parking lots on campus will eventually end up in the Chesapeake Bay. Water runs off into Paint Branch Creek, which leads into the Anacostia River, a major tributary of the Potomac River. The Potomac leads directly to the bay.

—Carol Salley, senior communication student



# For Your Interest

## Teach-Ins: War in Iraq

There will be a three-part series of panel discussions on the war in Iraq at Memorial Chapel in an effort to bring together some of the scholarly and intellectual resources of the university to encourage and inform the understanding of and discourse about the issues presented by the war.

The discussions will be held:

- Tuesday, April 22, Noon to 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 23, Noon to 2 p.m.
- Thursday, April 24, 2 to 4 p.m.

Format: moderated 90-minute panel discussions reflecting a diversity of perspectives and speaker backgrounds, and permitting audience interaction with panels. The event is free and open to students, faculty, staff, and surrounding community. For more information, contact Sapienza Barone at (301) 405-5790 or sbarone@deans.umd.edu.

## Ninth Annual Shih-I Pai Lecture in Fluid Dynamics and Plasma Dynamics

This year's lecture, entitled "Statistical Mechanics far from Equilibrium: Towards a General Theory," will be given by David Ruelle on Tuesday, April 29 at 4 p.m. in 1410 Physics Building. Ruelle is professor emeritus at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques, Bures-sur-Yvette, France. A reception will be held beforehand, from 3:15-3:55 p.m., in 1204 Physics.

Shih-I Pai (1913-1996) was a member of the faculty from 1949 to 1996 and was a founding member of the Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Applied Mathematics, the current Institute for Physical Science and Technology.

For more information, contact Frank Olver at (301) 405-4583 or olver@ipst.umd.edu.

## Whiting-Turner Lecture Series

The Whiting-Turner Business and Entrepreneurial Lecture Series Spring 2003 Lecture will be given Tuesday, April 29 in the Judith Resnik Lecture Hall, 1202 Glenn L. Martin Hall. The lecture begins at 5 p.m. and is preceded by a reception at 4:30 p.m.

Terrance M. Drabant, corporate vice president of Lockheed Martin and president of Lockheed Martin Mission Systems, will speak on "Personal Entrepreneurship: Secrets of Success."

For more information, visit [www.eng.umd.edu](http://www.eng.umd.edu).

## Free Book Signing

The Career Center, in partnership with Vertigo Books, 7346 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, is sponsoring a free reading and signing of the book, "Roadtrip Nation," on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. All are welcome to attend the reading but if you wish to have a book signed, it must be purchased at Vertigo Books. Proof of purchase is required. For more information, contact Bridget Warren at (301) 779-9300.

## "As the World Turns" to Maryland



PHOTO BY RYAN OWEN/PGP

Maryland student Ben Parker, second from left, shared screen time with "As the World Turns" stars Peyton List and Agim Kaba, and Maryland student Anname Phann (right).

Can a computer science major find fame and stardom as a network soap opera star? University of Maryland sophomore Ben Parker is about to find out.

Last fall the Gaithersburg computer science major landed the only male speaking role when the college tour of the long-running "As The World Turns" taped an episode at the College Park campus. Now Parker has been chosen by the soap's production staff as one of 10 student "discoveries" who will audition in front of the whole country on "The Early Show" (CBS) next week, for another spot in the limelight. Viewers will vote online for their favorites on April 26, and the winners—one woman and one man—will share a scene on the April 28 "Early Show."

A 2001 graduate of Quince Orchard High School, Parker takes acting classes at Maryland and performs in university productions, but when it came to picking his major, he went to the technical

side of campus for computer science. The son of a computer scientist and an artist, Parker says, "I love acting, but I decided I didn't need to major in it. I do better academically in computer science."

Parker received the news of the screen test in "Candid Camera" style, complete with a camera from a Baltimore news station on hand to capture his surprise. Two friends who had been told about his choice from among the several thousand students auditioning on 10 campuses during the "As The World Turns" tour, helped set him up.

His parents' reaction? "My mom is an artist. She thinks it's wonderful," Parker says. "My dad's the computer scientist. He's happy, but not as excited."

Parker's screen test airs Tuesday, April 22. Viewers will be able to vote for their favorite actor and actress on "The Early Show" Web site, [www.cbsnews.com/earlyshow](http://www.cbsnews.com/earlyshow), from Friday, April 25 until midnight on April 26.

## McNair: From 1960s Protestor to Campus IT Specialist, 32 Years at Maryland

Continued from page 1

degree in management information systems, said he considers himself the department's IT systems manager. He spearheaded the computerization of the department's paperwork, a technological breakthrough on campuses nationwide. He said helping the department become more technology-oriented was his biggest contribution to the force.

"I'm a deputy chief and don't go out on the road now," said the 52 year old. "I care more about crashing my hard drive than I do about crashing my car."

University Police Chief Kenneth Krouse said he immediately saw IT talent in McNair. "I became aware that his expertise was in technology development, innovative program implementation and problem identification and resolution," Krouse said. "Oftentimes he would ponder a difficult issue and provide insights that no one else puts on the table."

Webmaster Cpt. Gregg Savard said he admires McNair's fearlessness in bridging the department's hardware and software

to new technology. "I'll miss his expertise the most," Savard said. "He has a way of finding new technology and plunging ahead to make it a part of what you're doing." Savard, who joined the department six months before McNair, has been working for him for almost 10 years. He said McNair can be a friend and a boss. "He'll listen to you, but it's hard to change his mind on many topics."

Under McNair, the department soon moved from posting posters around residence halls hoping to reach students, faculty and staff, to mass e-mailing memos. Crime events now are posted on the department's interactive Web site, and the department has relied heavily on the anonymous tip feature on the site, which has helped close several cases.

The Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies has commended the department repeatedly for the technological advancements McNair initiated. "I can't accept all the credit; I consider myself a catalyst," he said. "It's really the officers and employees who

work with me that get the credit. They're the ones out there on a daily basis."

McNair said he constantly reminds officers they are supported by students, faculty and staff and that the university is not a city but a corporation that relies on its public image. "If students don't find it safe and leave, then the corporation loses revenue," he said. McNair calls his police work "tough," because he said he tends to see people on the worst day of their lives.

McNair said one of his most memorable moments was not behind a desk, but in the field. A young man sitting in front of McKeldin's Testudo shot and killed himself before commencement. Student police aides patrolling the area witnessed the event. McNair said the police took care of it quietly by using Health Center partitions to cover the young man, encircling him with their parked cars and roping off half the mall.

This tragic incident aside, McNair said he has no regrets among his many memories, but he is sad the 30-year retirement

program he is enrolled in is ending his career. McNair said he will miss the campus support, police staff and Police Chief Kenneth Krouse. "If you want to paint a picture of a successful career, this is it," the part-time Montgomery College information systems professor said. McNair is also a member of Jaycees, a civic association for young men.

Krouse said McNair's retirement used to seem a long way away, until now. "Although he is planning to stay until his work is finished with our newly purchased computer-aided dispatch system, he is 'gently' withdrawing from operational and administrative functions in the organization and will be sorely missed," he said.

Once retired, McNair will devote the bulk of his time to the Regional Crime Analysis System, a consortium of police departments statewide that is developing a program to allow local police departments to collectively track criminal activity across jurisdictions.

"[Tracing criminal activity] is like having a jigsaw and giving

10 people 10 separate pieces," he said. "Criminals are very mobile, and have all kinds of ways to communicate. They don't respect jurisdiction boundaries."

Today the former protester calls promoting technology in law enforcement and saving tuition remission his causes. "Officers need PDAs and PCs and cameras mounted in their cruisers," he said. "Cameras are good for car thefts, drug deals and drive-bys."

McNair said his three children, all University System of Maryland graduates, owe their higher education to tuition remission.

When it comes to Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 20-year military reservist said he disagrees with protestors. "We overlooked Hussein by minding our own business, the same kind of approach that got us into trouble with Hitler," he said. "9-11 should have given us a wake-up call. We can't sit idly by...we have to take a leadership role."

—Desair Brown, journalism graduate student